(vi) Providing broadband service on existing land line.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. MTNL, like any other Navaratna Companies, is delegated with the power to establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad.

MTNL has invested Rs. 212.44 million till March, 2005 to form wholly owned subsidiary company, i.e. Mahanagar Telephone Mauritius Ltd. (MTML) at Mauritius. MTML was registered in Mauritius on 14.11.2003 to provide public switched services, public and mobile services and International Long Distance Services. The Company has already started its services in the month of June, 2005.

MTNL has also formed a Joint Venture (JV) company called United Telecommunications Ltd. (UTL) with Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and Nepal Ventures Private Limited (NVPL) (A Nepal based company). The JV has been awarded a license to provide WLL based Basic Telecom Services in Nepal. MTNL has invested Rs. 233.45 million till March, 2005. The Company has started commercial operations. The expected Incremental Rate of Return (IRR) is nearly 20% over a period of six years for MTML and over a period of 10 years for UTL.

Introduction of 'three-in one' service

2438. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL has introduced 'three-in-one' service for its subscribers w.e.f. November 2005, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the service is on existing land-line connections, and whether the service is within the reach of every subscriber; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, MTNL has introduced high speed internet service also called Broadband Service under the name Tri Band on 14.01.2005 in both Delhi/Mumbai. The network is capable of supporting Triple Play Service namely voice, data and video simultaneously on the same telephone wires. Presently, high speed Internet and telephony is

available. The video service is targeted to start by March, 2006.

(b) The Tri Band Service works on existing landline connection and no separate line is required. There are various plans for high speed internet for different needs of subscribers with monthly usage charges starting from Rs. 199/-. The video service is likely to be available starting at approximately Rs. 300/- per month.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Subsidy for USO fund

2439. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India would bring down subsidy for universal services obligation fund from Rs. 21,000 crore to Rs. 6500 crore over next 5 years;

(b) if so, by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(c) whether telecom regulator has estimated that if the present regime of disbursing USO fund is continued, then Government will have to fork out Rs. 21000 crore by 2010 to achieve targets of reaching phones to villages; and

(d) if so, by when this change of permanent mobile phones in rural areas will be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has estimated that, if the present Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) support approach is continued, about Rs. 30,000 crore would be required to achieve the rural tele-density target of 4% by 2010.

(d) No such scheme for permanent mobile phones in rural areas has been envisaged.